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HISTORY OF COAL MINING

HISTORICAL

Coal was discovered at a very early period in the history of Australia, the first mention of it dating from August, 1797, when its existence was noted in New South Wales by some survivors from the wreck of a vessel, who had walked from the southern portion of Australia up the coast to Sydney. The discovery was shortly afterwards confirmed by Surgeon Bass, who found coal in the cliffs southward of Point Solander. but the locality was at the time looked upon as so inaccessible that no attempt was made to utilise the deposits. During 1908, however, the South Coast district, in which the site of these discoveries occurs, produced over 1,929,236 tons of coal, valued at £570,022. In 1797 coal was also discovered at the mouth of the Hunter (or Coal) River by Lieutenant Shortland, and in this case, the deposits being more easily worked, it was not long before they were utilised, and a township sprang up which is now the port of one of the greatest coalfields in the world. The production for the northern district, of which Newcastle is the port, amounted in 1908 to 6,511,002 tons, valued at £2,625,446.

The discovery of coal in Victoria dates from the year 1825, when the mineral is reported to have been found at Cape Patterson. There is no record of production in the earlier years, but it is stated that the first Victorian coal placed on the Melbourne market came from Kilcunda, in the vicinity of the original discovery. Up to 1889, with the exception of a little work by the companies at Moe and Narracan, the industry languished, the total production to the beginning of the year named being only about 25,000 tons. Early in 1889 the Government determined to come to the assistance of the industry, and the Coal Creek Company at Korumburra was registered, followed during next year by the Jumbunna Company, and the Outtrim, Howitt, and British Consolidated in 1894. The unfortunate strike of 1903 completely disorganised coal mining in Victoria, and the industry still suffers from its disastrous effects, In 1908 an extensive field of coal was discovered, through boring operations, in the Powlett River district. A seam of good, clean, hard coal, so far as proved, extends over an area of 3 miles by 2 miles, and averages 6 feet in thickness. In view of the probability of a State coal mine being established in the locality, the land some time ago was reserved from occupation for mining purposes, and surveys are being carried out with a view to the extension to district of the Nyora-Woolamai railway, which is now in course of construction. In July, 1909. the Coal Mines Regulation Bill, providing inter alia for the establishment of a State coal mine, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Victoria. Other payable seams in this district outcrop about five miles away, near Cape Patterson, and it is believed that the coal-bearing area extends over twelve to fifteen square miles.

The existence of coal in Queensland was known soon after the establishment of the first settlement at Moreton Bay, mines near Ipswich, on the banks of the Bremer Creek and Brisbane

River, having been worked almost continuously since that date. Seams in the Wide Bay district have been operated on since 1870, while good coal was mined at Clermont shortly after the establishment of the copper mines in that locality. A seam of good coal has also been discovered at Mount Mulligan, 32 miles from Dimbulah Station, on the Chillagoe railway. A seam of coal has recently been discovered in the vicinity of the Cooktown district, and plans for boring have been projected. The industry is at present in a very satisfactory position in the northern State, and owing to the wide area over which the deposits stretch, practically no limit can be set to its possibilities of extension.

In South Australia brown coal of fair quality was found in 1889 at Kuntha Hill, 110 miles north of Hergott, and at Leigh Creek, on the Great Northern railway line. The discovery of coal in Western Australia dates from 1846, when the mineral was found on the Murray River. Since that year coal has been met with in other localities, but production at the present time is confined to the deposits at the Collie River. In Tasmania coal was discovered between the Don and Mersey Rivers in 1850. The value of the deposits at Fingal was first proved in 1863, two tons of this coal producing nearly 14,000 cubic feet of gas.

Production of Coal

The quantity and value of coal produced in each State and in the Commonwealth at various periods since 1881, are shewn in the following table:

PRODUCTION OF COAL, AUSTRALIA, 1881 to 1908

	N.S.W.	Victoria	Q'land	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
QUANTITY							
Year	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1881	1,769,597		65,612	-	-	11,163	1,846,372
1891	4,037,929	22,834	271,603	-	-	43,256	4,375,622
1901	5,968,426	209,329	539,472	-	117,836	45,438	6,880,501
1902	5,942,011	225,164	501,531	-	140,884	48,863	6,858,453
1903	6,354,846	69,861	507,801	-	133,427	49,069	7,115,004
1904	6,019,809	121,742	512,015	-	138,550	61,109	6,853,225
1905	6,632,138	155,136	529,326	-	127,364	51,993	7,495,957
1906	7,626,362	160,631	606,772	-	149,755	52,896	8,596,416
1907	8,657,924	138,635	683,272	-	142,373	58,891	9,681,095
1908	9,147,025	113,962	696,332	-	175,248	61,068	10,193,635
VALUE							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1881	603,248	-	29,033	-	-	4,465	636,746
1891	1,742,796	19,731	128,198	-	-	17,303	1,908,028
1901	2,178,929	147,228	180,877	-	68,561	18,175	2,602,770
1902	2,206,598	155,850	172,286	-	86,188	19,546	2,640,469
1903	2,319,660	43,645	164,798	-	69,128	19,628	2,616,859
1904	1,994,952	70,208	166,536	-	67,174	24,444	2,323,314
1905	2,003,461	79,060	155,477	-	55,312	20,797	2,314,107
1906	2,337,227	80,283	173,282	-	57,998	21,158	2,669,948
1907	2,922,419	79,706	222,135	-	55,158	23,556	3,302,974
1908	3,353,093	64,778	244,922	-	75,694	24,427	3,762,914

In New South Wales there was an increase in the output for 1908, as compared with the previous year, in both the Northern and Southern districts, while there was a decrease in the Western district. (See page 517 hereinafter).

In Queensland nearly the whole of the increase in 1908 is accounted for by the larger output in the Wide Bay and Central districts. In the Southern district, the mines at Ipswich and Bundamba, which are responsible for the greater proportion of the State's output, shew a record but little higher than in 1907.

Distribution and Quantity of Coal in each State

New South Wales

Estimates have from time to time been made as to the total quantity of coal available for working in the deposits in New South Wales, and while these naturally differ to some extent, they agree in placing the amount at well over a thousand million tons, without taking into consideration the deposits existing below a depth of 4000 feet. According to Mr. E. F. Pittman, the coal-bearing rocks of New South Wales may be classified as follows:-

COAL-BEARING ROCKS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Geological Age	Maximum Thickness of Coal-bearing Strata	Locality	Character of Coal
I. Tertiary - Eocene to Pliocene	Approx. 100 ft.	Kiandra, Gulgong, and Chouta Bay	Brown coal or lignite.
II. Mesozoic - Triassic	2,500	Clarence and Richmond Rivers	Coal suitable for local use only.
III. Palaeozoic - Permo - Carboniferous	13,000	Northern, Southern and Western Coalfields	Good coal, suitable for gas, household and steaming.
IV. Palaeozoic - Carboniferous	10,000	Stroud	Very inferior.

No serious attempt has been made to use the deposits of brown coal or lignite as a source of fuel. The Triassic deposits in the Clarence and Richmond districts contain numerous seams, but the coal is largely intersected by bands, while its large percentage of ash renders it unfit for use as fuel for industrial purposes. Probably these beds extend under the great western plains, but the presence of artesian water precludes the possibility of their being worked. It is in the Permo-Carboniferous division that the great productive coal seams of the State are found, the area which they cover being estimated at about 25,000 square miles. The coal from the various districts embraced in this division differs considerably in quality - that from the Newcastle district being especially suitable for gas-making and household purposes, while the product of the Southern (Illawarra) and Western (Lithgow) is an excellent steaming coal. The Permo-Carboniferous measures have in various places been disturbed by intrusions of volcanic rocks, which in some instances have completely cindered the seams in close proximity to the intrusive masses, while in other instances the coal has been turned into a natural coke, some of which has realised good prices as fuel.

The quantity of coal wrought in New South Wales during the year 1908 constitutes a record output, although the output from the Western district shows a decrease of 57,132 tons as compared with the previous year. The greatest increase is in the Northern district, and amounts to 452,422 tons as compared with 1907. The quantity and value of the coal raised in each district during the years 1887, 1901, 1907, and 1908 will be seen in the following table:-

COAL RAISED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, 1887 to 1908

	1887		1901		1907		1908	
District	Quantity Tons	Value £	Quantity Tons	Value £	Quantity Tons	Value £	Quantity Tons	Value £
Northern	2,243,792	1,096,720	3,999,252	1,669,519	6,058,580	2,231,901	6,511,002	2,625,446
Southern	376,568	170,684	1,544,454	407,196	1,835,425	515,786	1,929,236	570,022
Western	302,137	79,036	424,720	102,214	763,919	174,732	706,787	157,625
Total	2,922,497	1,346,440	5,968,426	2,178,929	8,657,924	2,922,419	9,147,025	3,353,093

So far back as 1847 the Rev. W. B. Clarke expressed the belief that workable coal would be found in the strata below Sydney, a belief that was also held by subsequent geologists, who based their contentions on stratigraphical and palaeontological evidence. The later geologists urged that the Illawarra coal measures of the South Coast district were identical with the Newcastle measures of the Northern district, although it was agreed that the deposits in the neighbourhood of Sydney would probably be found at a considerable depth. Borings were made in several localities close to Sydney, and in 1891 a drill put down at Cremorne Point in Sydney Harbour passed through a seam of coal seven feet four inches thick and at a depth of 2801 feet. Unfortunately the site of the bore happened to be in the vicinity of a volcanic dyke, which had cindered the coal near the locality of its intrusion. A second bore was commenced in July, 1892, and in November, 1893, a seam of excellent coal, ten feet three inches thick, was reached at 2917 feet. The results attained led to the formation of a company which acquired land at Balmain, and expended a considerable sum of money in the purchase of plant suitable for working coal at such a great depth. Sinking operations were commenced in June, 1897, and coal was struck at a depth of 2880 feet on the 21st November, 1901. Up to the present developmental work has not sufficiently advanced to permit of any Considerable production.

Victoria

The deposits of black coal in Victoria occur in the Jurassic system, the workable seams, of a thickness ranging from two feet three inches to six feet, being all in the Southern Gippsland district. The coal is of excellent quality for steaming and household purposes. The full exploitation of the Victorian coal deposits has, however, been rather severely hindered by various obstacles. In the Report of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry, 1906, these have been summarised as follows - (1) Labour troubles. (2) Difficulties of working arising from faults, displacements, and thin seams. (3) Increased cost of production as the workings extend. (4) The low price ruling for coal.

Deposits of brown coal and lignite of immense extent occur in gravels, sands, and clays of the Cainozoic period throughout Gippsland, Mornington Peninsula, Werribee Plains, Gellibrand. and Barwon and Moorabool basins. In the Latrobe Valley the beds reach a thickness of over 800 feet. When dried, the material makes good fuel, but owing to its excessive combustibility and friability requires to be consumed, in specially constructed grates. Attempts have been made to manufacture briquettes from the brown coal, but so far without any great measure of success. It is stated that a company has recently been formed to install a modern plant at Morwell for the manufacture of briquettes and the recovery of the by-products. Reference has already been made to the proposal to establish a State coal mine in the Powlett River district. (See page 515 ante.)

The output of coal from the chief Victorian collieries during the last seven years was as follows:-

Year	Outtrim Howitt Company Tons	Jumbunna Coal Company Tons	Coal Creek Proprietary Tons	Silkstone Co-operative Company Tons	Other Companies Tons	Total Production Tons	Value Tons
1902	114,686	67,876	39,257	2,257	1,088	225,164	155,850
1903	20,602	18,517	20,727	4,354	5,661	69,861	43,645
1904	57,328	39,364	22,547	2,014	489	121,742	70,208
1905	71,989	49,009	27,710	1,624	4,804	155,136	79,060
1906	74,812	64,222	13,214	3,977	4,406	160,631	80,283
1907	64,083	61,755	3,762	7,565	1,470	138,635	79,706
1908	47,633	58,552	-	6,967	810	113,962	64,778

The figures for 1908 include 500 tons of brown coal, valued at £125.

The coal from Leigh's Creek in South Australia is subject to similar disabilities as the Victorian brown coal, and until some means are devised of overcoming these, production will probably languish.

Queensland

In Queensland the coal-bearing strata are of vast extent and wide distribution, being noted under the greater portion of the South-eastern districts, within 200 miles of the sea, as far north as Cookstown, and under portions of the far western interior. The Ipswich beds are estimated to occupy about 12,000 square miles of country, while the Burrum fields occupy a considerably larger area. At Callide, fifty miles west of Gladstone, a seam of coal free from bands has been struck in a shaft only sixty feet deep, and borings have proved the deposit to be of considerable magnitude. The beds in the Cook district are estimated to comprise rather more than 1000 square miles, but coal measures extend to the south-west far beyond Laura and to the north of the railway. Extensive beds occur in the basin of the Fitzroy River, in the Broadsound district, and at the Bowen River. Amongst other places where the mineral is founds may be enumerated Clermont, the Palmer River, Tambo, Winton, Mount Mulligan, and the Flinders River. A bituminous coal is yielded by the Ipswich seams, those of the Darling Downs yield a cannel, while anthracite of good quality is furnished by the Dawson River beds.

The quantity and value of coal raised in Queensland at various periods since 1861 were as shown below:-

Year	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1906	1908
Quantity Tons	14,212	17,000	65,612	271,603	539,472	606,772	696,332
Value . £	9,222	9,407	29,033	128,198	189,877	173,282	244,922

The quantity and value of coal raised in Queensland at various periods since 1861 were as shown below:-

At present coal mining in Queensland is in a very satisfactory position, the increasing volume of the trade being chiefly due to the action of the Government in granting concessions to vessels coaling at local ports.

The distribution of production during the last two years was as follows:

	1907		1908	
	Tons Raised	Average Value at Pit's Mouth s. d.	Tons Raised	Average Value at Pit's Mouth s. d.
Collieries				
Ipswich and Darling Downs	591,174	6 1½	591,535	6 6¼
Wide Bay	77,921	8 4	84,817	9 5¼
Rockhampton and Central District	14,077	11 6¾	18,480	11 7¾
Total	683,272	6 6		7 0½

A considerable proportion of the produce of the Ipswich district is supplied to vessels for hunker coal. The average value of coal in all districts was high or in 1908 than in 1907, a condition due to the raising of prices and the higher scale of wages which came into operation in the majority of the collieries at the beginning of the year 1908.

Western Australia

The coal seams in Western Australia belong to the Carboniferous, Mesozoic, and Post-tertiary ages. Most of the coal contains a large proportion of moisture, and belongs partly to the hydrous bituminous and partly to the lignite class. The only coalfield at present worked is at Collie, in the Mesozoic beds of the south-west. The coal produced is bright and clean, but very fragile when free from moisture. The improved output in 1908 is consequent on the establishment of a bunkering trade at Bunbury and Fremantle, which has developed very satisfactorily. The production from this field during the last eight years was as follows: -

PRODUCTION OF COAL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1901 to 1908

Year	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Quantity Tons	117,836	140,884	133,427	138,550	127,364	149,755	142,373	1175,248
Value £	68,561	86,188	69,128	67,174	55,312	57,998	55,158	75,694

Year	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Quantity Tons	117,836	140,884	133,427	138,550	127,364	149,755	142,373	1175,248
Value £	68,561	86,188	69,128	67,174	55,312	57,998	55,158	75,694

Tasmania

In Tasmania coal occurs in the Carboniferous and Mesozoic systems the product of the former class being, however, far inferior to that of the latter. Carboniferous seams occur at the Don, Tarleton, Latrobe, Port Cygnet, Tippagory Range, St. Mary's, and Adventure Bay, the seam at Port Cygnet having a thickness of two feet and being of fair quality. The Mesozoic coal measures are well developed in the Fingal basin, the Cornwall coal from this locality being excellent for

household purposes. The chief production of recent years has been furnished by the Mt. Nicholas and Cornwall mines, but it is hoped that one long the production from the Sandfly mine will assume considerable proportions. The quantity of coal raised during the years 1901 to 1908 in the various districts was as follows: -

PRODUCTION OF COAL IN TASMANIA, 1901 to 1908

District	1901 Tons	1902 Tons	1903 Tons	1904 Tons	1905 Tons	1906 Tons	1907 Tons	1908 Tons
North	2,952	1,683	1,735	2,282	1,261	1,878	1,045	-
Western								
Eastern	37,239	41,735	43,157	54,567	46,708	46,803	53,214	55,539
Midland	1,536	725	1,047	940	2000	393	624	-
South-eastern	-	60	30	200	200	1,483	4,008	5,529
South-western	3,711	4,660	3,100	3,120	3,624	2,339		
Total	45,438	48,863	49,069	61,109	51,993	52,896	58,891	61,068

Production of Coal In Various Countries

The total known coal production of the world in 1908 amounted to about 1100 million tons (exclusive of brown coal or lignite), towards which the Commonwealth contributed 10 million tons, or rather less than 1 per cent. The following table shows the production of the British Empire and the chief foreign countries in units of 1000 tons during each year of the period 1901 to 1908: -

BRITISH EMPIRE

Year	United Kingdom 1000 Tons	British India 1000 Tons	Canada 1000 Tons	Australia C'wealth 1000 Tons	New Zealand 1000 Tons	South Africa 1000 Tons
1901	219,047	6,636	5,791	6,884	1,228	1,465
1902	227,095	7,424	6,667	6,860	1,363	2,179
1903	230,095	7,438	7,107	7,112	1,420	2,911
1904	232,428	8,216	7,370	6,854	1,538	3,260
1905	236,129	8,418	7,739	7,496	1,586	3,709
1906	251,068	9,783	8,717	8,596	1,730	4,185
1907	267,831	11,147	9,385	9,681	1,831	4,679
1908	257,373	12,661	10,730	10,194	1,874	4,549

Including New Zealand the production from Australasia takes second place amongst the possessions of the British Empire, British India coming first in order.

Export of Coal

The exports of coal from the Commonwealth are practically confined to New South Wales.

The total quantity of coal of Australian production (exclusive of bunker coal) exported from the Commonwealth to other countries in 1908 was 2,560,842 tons, valued at £1,348,926, of which amount 2,558,366 tons, valued at £1,347,237, were exported from New South Wales.

New South Wales

In the following table will be found the quantity and value of the exports at decennial intervals since 1881 and during the last five years. The figures for New South Wales are given on the authority of the Mines Department of that State, and include both bunker coal and coal exported from New South Wales to other States of the Commonwealth:-

EXPORTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES COAL, 1881 to 1908

Year	1881	1891	1901	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Quantity 1000 tons	1,030	2,514	3,471	3,173	3,718	4,962	5,744	6,099
Value £1000	417	1,307	1,682	1,381	1,484	2,081	2,662	3,021

The principal countries to which coal was exported from Next South Wales during the year 1908 were as shown hereunder, The quantity and value refer strictly to exports, and exclude hunker coal:-

DESTINATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES COALS, 1908

Country	Quantity Tons	Value £	Country	Quantity Tons	Value £
Victoria	1,017,214	577,229	New Zealand	285,043	145,760
South Australia	635,326	348,905	Peru	78,223	42,121
Chile	789,620	427,820	Hawaii	65,918	35,828
Philippine Islands	351,441	190,899	United States	188,498	102,073
Straits Settlements	217,809	111,680	Omdoa	164,352	83,247
Western Australia	123,834	62,154	Tasmania	102,599	43,297

The quantity of hunker coal taken from New South Wales by oversea vessels was about 1,273,092 tons, valued at £684,862.

The distribution of the total output from New South Wales collieries during the last five years was as follows; the particulars given of amounts exported include coal shipped as bunker coal:-

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL OUTPUT OF NEW SOUTH WALES COAL, 1904 to 1908

Year	Exports to Australasian Ports Tons	Exports to Other Ports Tons	Local Consumption Tons	Total Tons
1904	1,880,545	1,292,322	2,846,942	6,019,809
1905	2,066,576	1,651,477	2,914,085	6,632,138
1906	2,260,090	2,701,450	2,664,822	7,626,362
1907	2,379,024	3,364,483	2,914,417	8,657,924
1908	2,715,310	3,383,366	3,048,349	9,147,025

Queensland

In 1903 Queensland's oversea export of coal was almost negligible, being 1688 tons, as compared with 3019 tons in 1907.

Consumption of Coal in Australia

An estimate of the consumption of coal in the Commonwealth may be arrived at by adding the imports to the home production, and deducting the exports (including bunker coal taken by oversea vessels). The follow-up table shews the consumption of coal in Australia, computed in the manner specified, for the last four years: -

CONSUMPTION OF COAL IN AUSTRALIA, 1905 to 1908

Year	Quality of Coal Consumed			Total Tons
	Home Produce	Produce of the United Kingdom	Produce of Other Countries and Colonies	
	Tons	Tons	Tons	
1905	5,468.00	-	8,000	5,476,000
1906	5,352,000	1,000	15,000	5,368,000
1907	5,954,000	3,000	12,000	5,969,000
1908	6,358,000	4,000	11,000	6,373,000

Price of Coal

New South Wales

The price of coal in New South Wales has been subject to considerable fluctuation since the date of first production. Up to the end of 1857 the average value of the total output was 11s. 10d. per ton. Next year the value had risen to nearly 15s., declining thereafter until in 1871 the price realised was 7s. From 1872 to 1879 there was a rise in value to 12s. Between 1882 and 1891 the price ranged between 8s. and 10s. From 1891 onwards there was a steady decline until 1898, when the average was 5s. 4d. Henceforward prices rose again until 1902, when 7s. 5d. was the average. A further decline then set in until 1905, when the price stood at a little over 6s., followed by a rise of one penny in 1906. In 1907 the average was 6s. 9d. and in 1908 was 7s. 4d. per ton. The price of New South Wales coal depends on the district from which it is obtained, the northern (Newcastle) coal always realising a much higher rate than the southern or western product. The average rate in each district during the last five years was as follows: -

PRICE OF COAL IN NEW SOUTH WALES (PER TON), 1904 to 1908

Year	Northern District s. d.	Southern District s. d.	Western District s. d.
1904	7 2.10	5 7.25	5 1.91
1905	6 4.15	5 5.03	5 0.15
1906	6 5.28	5 6.60	4 10.81
1907	7 4.41	5 7.44	4 6.90
1908	8 0.78	5 10.91	4 5.52

Victoria

In Victoria the average price of coal up to the 31st December 1890, was 19s. 3d. per ton. In 1895 the price was still as high as 12s. 2d., but in the following five years there was a serious decline, the value in 1900 being quoted at 9s. 7d., per ton. In 1901, however, there was an astonishing

rise, the figure being as high as 14s. 7d. Since that year, however, the price again declined, the average for 1905 being 10s. 2d., for 1906, 10s., for 1907, 11s. 6d., and for 1908, 11s. 5d.

Queensland

The average price of coal at the pit's mouth in Queensland during the period 1900 to 1908 ranged from St. 84d. in 1906 to 7s. in 1901. Prices in the principal coal-producing districts during the last four years were as follows:-

PRICES OF COAL, QUEENSLAND, 1905 to 1908

District	Value at Pit's Mouth			
	1905 Per ton. s. d.	1906 Per ton. s. d.	1907 Per ton. s. d.	1908 Per ton. s. d.
Ipswich and Darling Downs	5 4	5 2½	6 1½	6 6½
Wide Bay and Maryborough	7 8½	8 0¾	8 4	9 5¼
Rockhampton and Central	12 0	11 2½	11 6¾	11 7¾

Western Australia

The average price of the Collie (Western Australia) coal up to the end of 1901 was 9s. 4d. per ton, the price in 1901 being 11s 7d. In 1902 the average stood at 12s. 3d., and from that time the price fell steadily until 1906, when it was 7s. 7½d. per ton. In 1907 the average price was 7s. 8¾d., and in 1908 it was 8. 7½d. per ton.

Tasmania

The average price per ton of coal at the pit's mouth in Tasmania was 8s. in 1901. In 1902 it was 8s. 7d., in 1903, 8s. 9d., in 1904, 9s. 8d., in 1905, 9s. 8d., in 1906, 9s. 9d., and in 1907 and 1908 it was 8s. per ton.

Price of Coal in other Countries

According to a report published by the Board of Trade the average value of coal at the pit's mouth in the five principal coal producing countries of the world, for the four years ended 1907, was as follows:

PRICES OF FOREIGN COAL, 1904 to 1907

Year	United Kingdom Per ton. s. d.	Germany Per ton. s. d.	France Per ton. s. d.	Belgium Per ton. s. d.	United States Per ton. s. d.
1904	7 2½	8 6½	10 10½	10 8	5 10¾
1905	6 11½	8 7¾	10 6¾	10 2¾	5 8
1906	7 3½	8 11	11 2½	12 2¼	5 9½
1907	9 0	9 8¾	...	13 8½	5 11½

The price of coal at the pit's mouth in the principal British possessions is averaged by the same authority as follows:-

Year	British India Per ton. s. d.	C'wealth of Australia Per ton. s. d.	New Zealand Per ton. s. d.	Canada Per ton. s. d.	Transvaal. Per ton. s. d.	Cape of Good Hope Per ton. s. d.	Natal. Per ton. s. d.
1904	3 5	6 10	10 9	9 3	8 3	20 0	10 8
1905	3 4	6 2	10 7	9 4	7 3	18 8	8 3
1906	3 11	6 3	10 7	9 4	6 5	18 5	8 6
1907	4 8	6 10	10 7	10 9	6 0	18 5	9 0

Employment and Accidents in Coal Mining

The number of persons employed in coal mining in each of the States during the year 1908 is shewn below. The table also chews the number of persons killed and injured, with the proportion per 1000 employed, while further columns are added shewing the quantity of coal raised for each person killed and injured, this being a factor which must be reckoned with in any consideration of the degree of risk attending mining operations.

Returns published by the Board of Trade, England, give the total known number of persons engaged in mining and quarrying throughout the world as about 5 2/3 millions, more than one-half of whom were employed in coal mining, the number in the United Kingdom being 918,400; the United States, 641,000; Germany, 545,000; France, 176,000; Belgium, 143,000; Austria, 70,000; and India, 113,000.

The latest returns shew the death rate in the United Kingdom in respect of deaths through accidents in coal mines as 1.31, and for the British Empire 1.33 per 1000 Persons employed in coal mines. For France the rate is given as 1.10, for Germany 2.55, and the United States 4.66. For foreign countries generally the into is stated at 3.04 per 1000.

State	Persons Employed in Coal Mining	No. of Persons		Proportion per 1000 Employed		Tons of Coal Raised for Each Person	
		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
New South Wales	17,734	21	111	1.17	6.26	435,572	82,405
Victoria	542	1	7	1.85	12.91	113,962	16,280
Queensland	1,672	3	29	1.79	17.34	232,111	24,011
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Australia	280	1	32	...	...	...	5,477
Tasmania	189	*	*	*	*	*	*
Commonwealth†	20,228	26	179	1.28	8.85	389,714	56,606

*Not available. †exclusive of Tasmania.

COKE

Production of Coke

Notwithstanding the large deposits of excellent coal in Australia there is at the present time a fairly considerable amount of coke imported from abroad, the oversea import during the year ended 1908 amounting to 10,204 tons, valued at £13,610, the bulk of which came from the United Kingdom and Germany, and was taken chiefly by South Australia and Western Australia. Various reasons were at one time adduced to account for the rejection of the local article, such as excessive friability in transport, lack of strength to sustain the weight of large ore bodies in reduction works, excessive amount of ash, etc. These disabilities have, however, largely been overcome, so that succeeding years should see continued expansion in local production. Extensive shipments of coke were obtained from Germany in 1908 for the Wallaroo and Moonta smelters, and for the Broken Hill Proprietary's works at Port Pirie. In explanation of this, it has been stated that while supplies in Australia were not sufficient to meet demands and ensure continuity in supply, there has been considerable over-production at German coke works. In New South Wales the industry is making rapid progress, as the figures hereunder will show:-

Year	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Quantity Tons	171,006	162,961	186,060	254,609	283,873
Value, total £	110,692	100,306	110,607	159,316	199,933
Value per ton .	12s. 11d.	12s. 4d.	11s. 11d.	12s. 6d.	14s 1d

It may be seen that notwithstanding the depression in metalliferous mining in 1908 the production for the year shews an increase of 29,264 tons and £40,617 in value.

A small quantity of coke is made in Queensland, but the bulk of that used in ore reduction is imported, mainly from New South Wales. The following table shews the amount manufactured locally in this State, and the amount imported during the last four years ; the quantities imported include shipments landed from other States of the Commonwealth.

Year	1905 tons	1906 tons	1907 tons	1908 tons
Manufactured locally	8,650	8,672	8,280	10,684
Imported	9,823	22,661	34,013	58,079

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